

# Adventures with GOD!

## UNEXPECTED HEROES (C.3.FALL.1)

Biblical Reference	1 Corinthians 12:9-10
Key Verse	1 Corinthians 12:9
Key Concept	The power of Christ is made evident in my life when I recognize my weakness in light of his strength.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Distinguish between superheroes that have been created by our society and the true heroes that are described in the Bible</li> <li>2. Define how the Bible describes a hero</li> <li>3. Explain how our weakness can really be a strength in God's hands</li> </ol>

### Life Application

We all have people who we admire, who have special qualities. They often become our heroes. Unfortunately, many of the heroes we have today don't express a moral or ethical standard that comes from the Bible. Their appearance is perfect, they have no faults, the winners in the world today are the strongest and the most beautiful. Through the lesson today the children will learn what God's criteria are for a true hero. During the week they will observe three Christians and note the things they do and say that show the qualities of a true hero.

### Possible activities and class plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Activity	See instructions	10 minutes
Introduction	Paper, pencils	5 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustrations	15 minutes
Project	See instructions	10 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

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## INSTRUCTIONS

**My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review:** As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

**Bible Reading:** Explain that as we read the Bible we do so first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out-stretched, palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the biblical reference for the day (2 Corinthians 12:9-10) two times and ask children to respond.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

**Game:** Divide the class into two or three teams. In a bag or basket, have strips of paper with the names of some of the biblical heroes. Taking turns, each child will have the opportunity to act out the name on the paper so that his or her team can guess the name of the hero.

**Introduction:** As a way of introducing the theme for the trimester, together with the students you will make a person (out of paper, fabric, etc) that will represent a "hero." Together make the person (ex. someone can make the eyes, while other children work on the arms, etc.). Tape this person to the wall or hang from the ceiling and each week tape on the name of the heroes that you are studying. The last week, add all the names of the children, as a way of affirming their decision to follow Christ who makes them true heroes in God's kingdom.

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**Bible exploration:** On a large piece of paper or white board, write out the names of the heroes they will be learning about this trimester. Begin a dialogue by asking them questions like, "What does a person need in order to be a hero?" Have some dictionaries available and allow them to look up the word. Talk with the children about the definitions they find. Talk with them about the fact that this trimester they will be studying the life of some biblical heroes that may appear to be more unexpected heroes. They are not the superheroes our world portrays. Make a list of the superheroes that they are familiar with.

Write the Bible verse for today on the board or on a large piece of paper. Include some blank spaces where they need to fill in the words.

But he said to me, "My \_\_\_\_\_ is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in \_\_\_\_\_." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my \_\_\_\_\_, so that Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ may rest on me. – 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

Have them try to guess the missing words, then have them look up the verse in their Bibles to fill in the blank spaces.

Give each child a copy of the activity sheet "Weaknesses, difficulties and God." Give them a few minutes to work on it and then share together the answers they have come up with. IN the lessons this trimester they will be talking about how we can be true heroes in God's kingdom, when we listen, trust and obey. He can use us to help others. It doesn't matter what our weaknesses are when we give them over to God and ask God to use us. We cannot do it on our own. We need the power of God to intervene in our lives.

**Project:** After choosing the idea from the introduction to this trimester that best fits your class, you can get organized and begin to make a list of what you will do for this trimester's project.

## **Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:**

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

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W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen



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SIGN FOR DECORATION

UNEXPECTED

HEROES

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## ACTIVITY SHEET

### WEAKNESSES, DIFFICULTIES AND GOD

If you could change one aspect of your physical appearance or of your abilities, what would it be?

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. – 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV)

According to God’s word, what is it that you need?

In what kind of people is Jesus’ power made most visible?

So, why is Paul joyful and thankful?

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Take a moment to think about the things that could be considered weaknesses and/or difficulties in your life right now. Write them down and then pray asking God to work in you and through you even in your weakest and most difficult times.

**My weaknesses**

**My difficulties**